Discussion with International Atomic Energy Agency

†4591. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that discussion of Indian representatives is still continuing with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

(b) if so, the main issue of discussion;

(c) whether it is a fact that success of this discussion depends upon success of implementation of atomic agreement that was entered into on 18th July, 2005 between India and America; and

(d) if not, the Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) Government had three exploratory meetings with IAEA on the main concepts that would be embedded in an India Specific Safeguard Agreement. These were perforce exploratory in nature since the contours of the 123 Bilateral Co-operation Agreement and more importantly the implications of the US legislation on the subject (Hyde Act) were not clear. Discussions will continue with IAEA on developing an India Specific Safeguard Agreement.

Overhauling of coal distribution system

4592. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's coal distribution system is set for an overhaul and is likely to be based on the needs of regulated and non-regulated sectors and the committee for evaluation of policy for distribution headed by the Coal Secretary has been appointed to formulate the new policy;

(b) the main recommendations made;

(c) whether to increase the availability of coal having high utilizable heat value, Coal India Limited has decided to set up a washery in all new mines that would be opened up from now; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.